Application No.: 09/808911   Docket No.: KAQ-002

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 4 of the Application by replacing it with the following amended paragraph:

The ~~PMT~~ protocol, which is referred to herein as the PMT protocol (Preference Management Technology protocol), controls access to each piece of data within a user profile by examining permissions associated with the data. Permissions may be associated with an entire user profile, or a field in the profile. Thus, the granularity of permissions may be variable with the smallest grain being that of a field. Permissions may be specified in terms of groups. In fact, permissions may be specified using a set algebra applied to groups. For example, a given user profile may be accessible by clients that are identified by the union of two groups. A group may be defined as a listing of clients (i.e., a listing of account I.D.'s where each client has an associated account I.D.'s) or in terms of other groups. The use of such groups allows data sharing within groups of service providers of the same category and other varieties of data sharing. Moreover, the groups readily accommodate a dynamic modification of clients that are given access to user profiles. For example, if a user grants access to a group of pizza vendors to the users phone number, the group of pizza vendors may be dynamically modified, and there is no need for the user to update the user profiles to include or exclude pizza vendors that have been added or removed from the group. The specification of the permissions automatically accounts for such changes.

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